

7. CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FAUNA OF ROTTNEST ISLAND.

No. III.

The Ants.

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The list given below is compiled from two lots of ants captured by Mr. W. H. Mathews (1922) and Mr. L. Glauert (1927). Four species were taken by Mr. Mathews, one of which proved to be new, the balance being added by Mr. Glauert. Only one is known to be confined to the Island, the others belonging to more or less widely distributed species. With the exception of *Rhytidoponera levior* the females of all the species are capable of flying, or of being carried by winds from the mainland to the Island. No doubt further exploration will bring to light additional species particularly when the roots and stems of the various trees and plants have been examined for the small and obscure forms found in these situations.

Family FORMICIDAE.

Subfamily PONERINAE.

Myrmecia infima. Forel,

Myrmecia picta, Smith; var. *infima*, Forel.

Ann. Soc. Ent. Belg. 44, p. 54, 1900.

This species is found along the coast from Geraldton to Albany. It is one of the smallest of the genus and very close to *M. nigra*, Forel, from which it can be distinguished by its yellowish antennae and legs. Although described as a variety of *M. picta* it has no connection with that species.

Rhytidoponera punctata, Smith, var. *levior*, Crawley,

Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (9), 16, p. 581, 1925.

This ant has so far been found only on the Island. It is much like *R. punctata* but the punctures are larger and more scattered giving it a more shiny appearance. *R. punctata* is widely distributed in Western Australia.

Euponera (Brachyponera) lutea, Mayr.

Verh. Zool-bot. Ges. Wien. 12, p. 721, 1862.

One of the most widely distributed ants in Australia. It lives in small colonies under logs and stones but is also found nesting at the roots of trees and plants. The worker is yellowish or reddish in colour.

Subfamily MYRMICINAE.

Pheidole Hartmeyer, Forel.

Fauna Sudwest Aust. 1, p. 280, 1907.

Originally found at Fremantle; several examples were taken by Mr. Glauert on the Island. It does not appear too common anywhere.

Crematogaster Laeviceps, Smith, var. **Chasei**, Forel.

Rev. Suisse Zool. 10, p. 413, 1902.

Originally described from Perth this form is widely distributed in South-West Australia.

Crematogaster Sp.

Several examples of males and females of an undetermined species were found flying to lights by Mr. Mathews. They appear to belong to *C. rufotestaceus*. Mayr.

Subfamily DOLICHODERINAE.

Iridomyrmex Rufoniger, Lowne.

This species is widely distributed throughout Australia. The examples taken by Mr. Glauert are not quite typical but are too close to separate at present.

Subfamily FORMICINAE.

Camponotus (Tanaemyrmex) Testaceus, Smith.

Cat. Hym. Brit. Mus. 6, p. 39, 1858.

A common and widely distributed species in Western Australia.

Camponotus (Myrmophyma) Walkeri, Forel.

Ann. Soc. Ent. Belg. 37, p. 454, 1893.

A widely distributed species originally described from N.W. Australia. It has previously been found at Perth and Fremantle.